
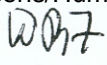


DCFS INFO MEMO 2006 - 09 June 13, 2006

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Health and Family Services  
Division of Children and Family Services

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators  
Bureau Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Services Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Section Chiefs/Licensing Chiefs  
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From:  Burnie Bridge   
Administrator

Re: 2005 Wisconsin Act 106, Child Restraints in Vehicles

Governor Doyle recently signed 2005 Wisconsin Act 106 into law. Act 106 modifies seat belt and child safety seat requirements for children who are riding in a motor vehicle. Act 106 creates a tiered structure of restraint requirements according to the child's age and size. The new requirements become effective June 1, 2006, although there is a period during which law enforcement may give warnings for certain offenses. Act 106 may be viewed at the following address:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/acts/05Act106.pdf>

These new requirements will apply to all children in all vehicles, and therefore will impact social workers, foster parents, other out-of-home care providers, child care providers, and other individuals who transport children.

Act 106 requires that:

- A child who is less than one year old or who weighs less than 20 pounds must be properly restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat in the backseat of the vehicle, if there is a backseat.
- A child who is at least one year old and weighs at least 20 pounds, but who is less than four years old or weighs less than 40 pounds, must be properly restrained in a forward-facing child safety seat in the back seat of the vehicle, if it has one.
- A child who is at least four years old but less than eight years old, weighs at least 40 but not more than 80 pounds, and is no more than 87 inches tall must be properly restrained in a child booster seat as defined in the Act.
- A child under the age of eight who exceeds the weight or height limits in the third category must be properly restrained by a seat belt.
- Children over the age of eight must be properly restrained in a seat belt.

Under prior law, children under the age of four years or 40 pounds were required to be properly restrained in a car safety seat. Children between the ages of four and eight were required to use child safety seats or seat belts. Act 106 adds the booster seat requirement.

For additional information about booster seat requirements in Wisconsin and other states, please see the following website: [www.boosterseat.gov](http://www.boosterseat.gov).

Effective Date: This law becomes effective on June 1, 2006.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Area Administration

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:

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DCFS MEMO WEB SITE:

[http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dcfs\\_info/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dcfs_info/)

cc:

County Foster Care Coordinators  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Tribal Child Welfare Contacts  
Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (WFAPA)  
Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center

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